

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF BUNGOMA
COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF BUNGOMA
COUNTY ASSEMBLY DEBATES
THE DAILY HANSARD
WEDNESDAY, 20TH MAY, 2026
Morning Sitting

3rd County Assembly
Version 00

5th Session
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COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF BUNGOMA
THE DAILY HANSARD

WEDNESDAY, 20TH MAY, 2026

The House met at the County Assembly Chamber at 9:30 a.m.

(Mr. Speaker [Hon. Emmanuel Situma] in the Chair)

PRAYER

QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS

**RESPONSE IN RELATION TO LAND DESIGNATED FOR KAPCHIKUI ECDE
CENTRE IN CHESIKAKI WARD AND LAND BELONGING TO THE COUNTY
GOVERNMENT**

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Psero, that's your statement that you sought from the Chair of the Committee on Lands, Urban, Physical Planning and Housing. Hon. Ipara, proceed.

Hon. Johnston Ipara: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. This is a report on the statement raised by Hon. Jacob Psero on the Land designated for Kapchekui E.C.D.E Centre in Chesikaki Ward on Lands belonging to the County Government.

Pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 54(a) of the County Assembly of Bungoma Standing Orders, the Committee on Lands, Urban, Physical Planning and Housing hereby submit its progress report on two statements sought by Hon Jacob Psero on ;

1. Land belonging to the County Government.
2. Land designated for Kapchekui E.C.D.E center in Chesikaki Ward.

The committee during its internal meetings considered the statements and requested for their responses from the department concerned. The department submitted its progress report and the committee shared them with the owner of the statement for consideration.

The committee held interrogations on 7th and 9th April, 2026 and the following was discussed.

1. Lands belonging to the County Government.

The committee considered the response and came to a conclusion that since the matter touched on are vast of issues concerning the Whole County, it was resolved that the department be invited to respond on the issue before the whole House.

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2. Land designated for Kapchekui E.C.D.E centre in Chesikaki Ward.

- a) Date of acquisition: The Land was purchased in the financial year 2014/2015.
- b) Acreage: The size of Land is 1 Acre.
- c) Purchase price and Budget Allocation: The total purchase price was Kshs 425,000 there were no details on the specific budget allocation. Further details were being sought from the County Treasury which acquired the parcel under the County Empowerment Fund (CEF).
- d) To obtain title in the County's name: The delay has been caused by a combination of factors including non-availability of Budget at the relevant time and the delay to hand over of conveyance documents from the County Treasury, the Department that undertook the acquisition under (CEF)
- e) Statement and status of registration: The Land is not yet registered in the name of the County Government of Bungoma and remains in the vendors name upon receipt of the requisite documentations, the registration process will commence immediately.
- f) The expected timeline for the acquisition of title has not yet been obtained in the name of the County Government.

However, documentation has already been formally requested from the County Treasury and registration will commence without delay upon receipt of the documents.

During the interrogations the Chief Officer clarified that the information on the said parcel of Land is scanty because it was purchased under (CEF) Finance.

The Department purported that, the Land sale Agreement official search Original Title Deed signed and registered mutation form, signed transfer instruments, Spouse consent and the National ID card for both the vendor and the Spouse were being held by the Finance Department.

THAT, lack of the above documentations has made it difficult to verify compliance with statutory Land Acquisition requirements and to know the actual amount allocated to the project registration and acquisition of Title.

THAT, the department received part of the documents a day before the meeting from the Ward based Project Officer, the department can't therefore, know the status of the said Land ownership until a proper valuation has been undertaken.

It was resolved that;

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1. The Department should write a due diligence report to the County Attorney to facilitate determination of the original number of the Land current owner and if there could be possibility of Fraud in acquisition of the Land by the current occupant.
2. The Department of Finance and Economic Planning to furnish the committee with Documentations on the payment of the Kapchekui E.C.D.E centre.
3. The Department of Land to share the due diligence report with the committee as part of follow up on that matter.
4. The committee has instructed the Director (CEF) to furnish it with all documentations concerning the purchase and acquisition of the Kapchekui E.C.D.E centre
5. The committee will proceed for a fact finding on the Kapchekui E.C.D.E centre in Chesikaki ward to ascertain the status of the Parcel of Land

CONCLUSION

The owner of the statement did agree with the committee's resolutions and action plan for the follow up. I submit.

Mr. Speaker: Yes Hon. Jacob Psero, you have heard the response.

Hon. Jacob Psero: Mr. Speaker Sir, you are giving me a new name of Jack...

Mr. Speaker: I said Psero, Jacob Psero

(Laughter)

Hon. Jacob Psero: Thank you for this opportunity at least to get a response from the Chairman of Lands. I want to agree with him that we had a meeting with the department and a number of issues were handled. At the same time, I want to agree with him that the committee still requires time to visit Kapchekui, so that we can be able to have more details.

This is because the person who sold the land is still owning his title deed but in between the son to the brother who sold this land to the County decided to be mischievous and has already acquired another title deed in his name, so that means the department may not have an opportunity to have somewhere to construct the ECDE Center. Already the same man has given a threat in messages asking the management of the ECDE to ensure that they vacate the said land.

Otherwise, on the first line actually the title deeds in Bungoma, the parcels that we have bought in Bungoma are so many and many of them have no title deeds up to today. The fraction that has a title deed is just a quarter of the whole title deed that we have in the County, and some of the parcels are being threatened by encroachment and other fictitious things to do with land, so we still need the department to come here to give us further details on the purchase of Land in

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Bungoma County and acquisition of their title deeds. We are here but most of the properties that we have bought using County money can easily be taken back by the original owners. So I agree with you.

Mr. Speaker: Before we are able to allow some Speakers to make some contributions Hon. Ipara, in first statement, you are seeking that the concerned officers appear before this Whole House, so the first limbo of the statement we would want them to come here because we are talking of 45 Wards the land acquired, then equally under the Land Act where we obtain the transfer, Land Control Act no.102 Laws of Kenya, when you want to get the title deed, a consent is supposed to be obtained before 6 months. Now we are talking of 2013/2014 we are in 2026. If they are having an application of consent and transfer, why didn't they register the same in the name of the County Government of Bungoma, because you are saying the Department of Finance is holding on to the documents, that's from your response, so then as you are giving your feedback, we want to have a tentative time when they are going to appear before us here, because this is an interim report. We want now to have the full report, when? Give us some indication maybe three weeks, we will come back to you.

Before he responds, let's hear Hon. Nganga.

Hon. Everton Nganga: Thank you, Honourable Speaker for giving me a chance to contribute. First, I would like to thank Hon. Jacob Psero for coming up with such a statement. It is true what is happening in our County after the purchase of land for construction of projects like health hospitals, maternity wings and ECDE. As you have properly mentioned, since 2013 to date, the parcels of Land that were bought in our wards, you discover that the title deeds have not been processed.

What happens in this County Government, the Land owners who always accept to sell Land to the County Government, they always provide their title deeds and those title deeds are always attached with the agreement then they are always inserted in the payment certificate that normally goes to the Finance department. You discover that those title deeds are never given back to the Lands department to facilitate the processing of the Land title deed.

We are having problems. We discover that the owner of the parcel who has sold land to the County Government may die a long way before the transfer of the title deed to the County Government and at the end you discover that the siblings or family of the owner, they will again come out and start complaining. Like in my Ward, there is a piece of land purchased at Nabongo to construct a dispensary. Currently the sons of the owner have started encroaching that parcel, so it is my request that if we can pronounce very well as a House, that Honourable Speaker you pass a message to the elected Honourable members to check the parcels that were purchased from their area of jurisdiction, so that they can find out if there are some complains or issues of the owner of the Land encroaching or transferring ownership of the parcel without the

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information of the County Government, so that we come up with that information so that when we invite the Chief Officer - Lands or the CECM - Lands in this House, they can answer comprehensively to the queries that will be raised by the Honourable members.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Eric Wekesa,

Hon. Eric Wekesa: Thank you, Hon. Speaker for giving me this opportunity. Let me first of all start updating Hon. Jacob that in our current Gen z dispensation, Jack is the same as Jacob. We assume so.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Eric!

Hon. Eric Wekesa: Hon. Speaker...

Mr. Speaker: Let me correct you Hon. Eric. The record I have here, the order of swearing in the gazette, he remains Hon. Jacob Psero.

Hon. Eric Wekesa: Obligated,

Mr. Speaker: The one for Gen z, you can call him out there.

(Applause)

Hon. Eric Wekesa: Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I have an issue with the lands department in line with what Hon. Jacob has raised as a statement. When I assumed office in my ward, there was a lot of vagueness because in Chwele/Kabuchai in two places we have land for the market and the auction ring. Every time we reach the final stage of acquiring the piece of land, the owners of the land change. We realize that there is more than one owner, so the biggest challenge we have is the department of Lands being not very keen on seeing the current practice in land that has changed so much from the previous engagements

There's a lot of fraud in land and an intentional hike of prices because they think it's the County Government. You will discover when you look for land as the County government, the prices you are given are very high as opposed to individuals seeking to acquire land.

So my request in line with this statement to solve the biggest impasse, we either increase the capacity at the Ministry of Lands, or if they already have capacity, they get a little bit serious because before Honourable Members reach a level of struggling to know who owns what, there are professionals hired in this County like Chief Officers in charge of those departments who should be having those things at their fingertips but because of lack of interest to expedite public matters, when it comes to things that they don't get direct benefit, there's a lot of laxity that has made us struggle getting land.

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As I conclude, the purchase of land in some Wards is very expensive. There are other interior Wards where you can get a piece of land at Kshs 300,000, 400,000 up to 1 million. In Kabuchai Chwele, if I decide to buy land using my CEF money, I would spend the whole CEF allocation to buy a piece of land to build a dispensary. I submit.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Caleb?

Hon. Caleb Wanjala: Thank you, Honorable Speaker. I also wish to add my voice on the issues raised by Hon. Psero, which is affecting all the 45 wards. Land buying is a procedure, and you are a lawyer, you know what is needed when land is being bought but in this case, you can realize that the owner of this land that Hon. Psero is raising concern is trying to fraudulently take the land which the County owns because as we speak, the land has not been vacant. Already there is an ECD Center going on in the same land.

We are in a digital era, how I wish that the Lands department will take advantage of the ICT department in this county and digitize all the lands bought by this county in all the Wards in that if I want to know the County Government land in Chwele/Kabuchai, you can just click and have the detail. They need to do that otherwise in our wards, there is a lot of encroachment.

In my own Ward, there is somebody who has encroached on land meant for the cattle dip and was even planning to plant sugar cane recently. We had to stop him. He had taken one acre that he wanted just to plant sugar cane because it appears as if there is nothing going on with this government. So as Honorable Members representing our people in our wards, this issue needs to be taken with a lot of weight so that we cannot just have people encroaching on the government lands because there is no title deed.

Another issue is that lands were purchased in the last financial year, when there was no valuer and this House passed the resolution and we had to hire a valuer. I was seeking for your attention Honorable Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Yes,

Hon. Caleb Wanjala: But now that we have a valuer, why is it so difficult for title deeds to be issued when the valuer and Land Registrar are working together. We want to see this issue of title deeds taken seriously and titles issued to all lands owned by this County Government.

Recently, I remember you even called me when we were building Bukembe Market. There are people who had encroached on that land and they went to court to block the construction of the market, but when we searched, they realized that the land belonged to County Government. They had to forget. Otherwise, we would be having a lot of cases there. So, a lot of development are being derailed back because of such cases, otherwise, just like you have given direction, we want

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to see the Ministry of Lands taking this issue of land seriously. As a County, we cannot progress nor develop if we don't have land where government can build projects that will benefit our people.

I want to appreciate my colleague, Hon. Psero and all these Honorable Members. They have similar cases if you give them time to speak.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Caleb. Hon. Ipara, proceed.

Hon. Johnston Ipara: Honorable Speaker Sir, you have just reminded us of a six-month mandatory period where the law says that when one gets consent, you are supposed to act within the six months and for our case, we have not complied with that part of law and since we have not complied we have also been exposed.

One exposure is we have allowed an opportunity for the seller either to change his mind and if he does not change his mind, maybe he dies along the way, then we have also gotten into a succession issue, which is again more troubling than it is. If that doesn't occur, you find that, as Hon. Eric said, the owners change their mind and say that we want to do a double sale because like this case, the cost of an acre was 425,000 by the time they were buying in 2014. Today, the lowest is around 1.5 million per acre. So this is something that gives an appetite to the owners to make an attempt to sell elsewhere and if you are not a government institution, they see also penalties on KRA.

If we did pay in 2014, we could have paid lesser fees but today, the fees is higher. What exposes us to this? Last week, I did attend tutorial classes with Hon. Waiti who is a qualified surveyor and he challenged me. The first question he asked was; when you are entering into agreement with the seller, did you include the charges for transfer of that piece of land? The answer that I gave Hon. Waiti was, I only gave the total cost for purchase, which was 1.5 million shillings for an acre. You see we expose ourselves.

Maybe the factor that we need to consider in the future, if the sale cost is 2 million, you also go to the registry to find out other charges that will facilitate the transfer of that particular title, if we can consider including those other charges this delay will not occur. For this case that we are discussing, the matter was handled by finance which has been sitting on these documents since 2014 and they have never minded transferring them to the County government and what happens is one, some of them do not have the knowledge. They think that when you are in possession of sale agreement and other attachments, it means that that piece of land has been transferred.

If they did allow the qualified department to handle these matters, we could not be at this particular situation right now. Our wish as a committee was one, to meet the department and

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find out how we can get out of this stalemate then discuss with the department that we are a committee too.

In the future, the one who wants to buy that piece of land should be advised that the cost price should include the other charges for registration. Then, we shall reconcile those two details and include it with the fact-finding aimed at finding out whether the family of the deceased were aware of the sale of the piece of land in question to the county government through the ward and if they were aware, and when they went for transfer, why did they fail to consider the obvious facts that were there and they knew.

After that, we shall make a decision as we come back from the fact-finding and make a conclusive report which gives a way forward to one, refer this matter to other national government agencies, the CID and EACC, to find out whether this was done with malice. The malice I'm referring to is; they knew of the facts of issue and they decided to change the ownership without considering the third party, who is the county government and after that I want to request that let the department appear here and report to us whether there is inventory on the pieces of land that we purchased across the county since the inception and even before.

If that is done, they will also tell us the status of every piece of land in question and after that this Honorable House will make an informed decision on the way forward on how we address these malpractices that are all over,.

With that, on behalf of the committee, I wanted to plead with this Honorable House through you, that if this committee can be allowed a four-week period, and I'm saying this because of the emotiveness that is attached to land, to conclude this particular matter, I submit.

Mr. Speaker: Honorable Members, the first statement which I'll want the table clerks to extract and serve the Executive; they appear here on all the portions of land acquired in Bungoma County before and after devolution in all the 45 wards. We'll want them here, and I'll want to spare the entire afternoon for you and them.

(Applause)

So in three weeks' time from now, 10th of June, make sure you only have very few statements or no motion on that day for them to appear.

Two, Chairman of the Committee on Implementation is here. Take time and make a follow-up on the Ad Hoc Committee of Lawrence Sifuna that conducted investigation on lands. That report will show you that even some of your family members and voters are occupying government land. So be very careful that they don't raise these issues as we approach the elections. They may turn against you.

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I am just being honest, some of the offices that are supposed to be chief offices' land have been litigating, and it's occupied by our own people. Take time. The report was passed here and now the challenge of having a sitting with such a number of people, you miss it out...that report is here, it can be shared afresh...raw report. The land is basically occupied by your own people in your Wards. So as you go ahead, be very careful.

Lastly, I will give you 4 weeks but when you go to that piece of land, have enough security. That is very clear from the onset. What kills people in Bungoma are only three things; land, women and money.

(Laughter)

It is land, women and money. I speak as a lawyer, who has been in court for 22 years. Let us hear Hon. Anyango first.

Hon. Everlyne Anyango: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I respect your seat because you are sitting on an Honourable chair, is it in order for you to say that women are killing people?

Mr. Speaker: Honourable...

Hon. Everlyne Anyango: Honourable Speaker, kindly let me finish. Is it that we use a knife, blunt object or how do we kill. In the gallery, I can see students on attachment and they are both girls and boys. As they leave this gallery, I can see some of them are boys, let them not look at me and say this Honourable member is a killer. I am not a killer.

(Laughter)

Mr. Speaker: Honourable Members let me clarify what I meant so that Hon. Anyango understands. I said the cause of killings in this country, when you have land quarrel, it will end into killing, every time you see men and women fighting over a woman, somebody is killed. Are you getting it? And equally money makes people to fight each other. So I didn't say that members are killers here. Let me hear Hon. Chikati

Hon. Timothy Chikati: Mr. Speaker, you are very right and I want to add that even biblically, Eve cheated Adam and gave him an apple, which is where all these problems came from. Who is Eve? She's a woman. That is where the problems came from and now it is generational. So let us not try to hide, women are the mischief. Look on the social media, the way our girls are dying because of their beauty. Let them reduce this beauty, we are dying. Let them reduce the beauty, catwalk and everything.

(Laughter)

Hon. Jack Wambulwa: Thank you, honourable Speaker. I won't to go on the issues of women as alleged by my colleagues because we must respect our mothers. Most of us who are talking

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including Hon. Chikati, he is smiling because of the woman behind him. Even you Honourable Speaker, the way you are and the way you are talking, you might make me reach out to *Mulamwa* and tell her that the Speaker is saying you are killing. All I want to say...

Mr. Speaker: Honorable Members, I do agree with Hon. Jack, but this is what I want to say, how it is happening. Hon. Jack, proceed.

Hon. Jack Wambulwa: Yes Honourable Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: When you see Hon. Jack becoming the advocate of women...

Hon. Jack Wambulwa: Honourable Speaker, I am on information, I cannot be informed.

Mr. Speaker: Let him finish first.

Hon. Jack Wambulwa: What I wanted to say is that you are on that Honourable seat on behalf of this House, the issue of land grabbing; it is like you want to encourage it in the County. You cannot scare members by saying that if we approved that report, it might cost us. Do we support land grabbing? Should we allow public land to be stolen just because people are going to vote us out? It is improper and I think as a leader of this House, you should withdraw that statement of scaring members so that we will proceed and approve the report.

Mr. Speaker: Honourable member, I think when you miss sittings here, it becomes a problem. From what I'm hearing from Hon. Jack, he is not aware that report was approved by this House. I am asking the Chair of Implementation Committee as a way forward to invite the concerned CECM and Chief Officer, give them the time frame but I only caution you on the repercussion because I have been litigating for 22 years in Court and I know what happens with land matters. That is why I was cautioning the committee that when you go there, have enough security. Let me just confirm, let us move on, you have been given four weeks.

So I think for the statements, we are done with them.

Next item,

MOTION

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**A REPORT OF THE SECTORIAL COMMITTEE ON LABOUR RELATIONS,
MEMBER SERVICE AND FACILITIES ON THE BENCHMARK ON
OPERATIONALIZATION OF MEMBERS AND STAFF FACILITIES**

Mr. Speaker: Yes, Chair or mover of the report. You know God answers people's prayers. I know Hon. Chemion is a very religious man and he prays always.

Proceed, Hon. Chemion.

Hon. Francis Chemion: Thank you, Honourable Speaker for acknowledging before this House that I am religious and pray for members and the County as a whole. I am here to move a report by the Committee on Labor Relations, Member Services and Facilities on the benchmark on operationalization of members and staff facilities.

Honourable Speaker...

Mr. Speaker: Honourable Chemion, for records purposes, I have seen Hon. Caleb trying to be like Hon. Chikati jumping up and saying quorum. Just confirm quorum for him.

Hon. Francis Chemion: The quorum is there, we are more than the required quorum.

Mr. Speaker: Let me confirm; Honorable Cheseto is not a member, let me read the names so that you confirm, even if we had changes yesterday, we look at the membership as at that time. It was that time when Hon. Hentry was the Chair and Hon. Catherine as Vice chair, Hon. Nganga, Polycarp, Godfrey, Francis Chemion, Bridgit Katasi, Anthony Luseneka, Mitrine Nangalama, Everlyn Anyango, Linda Kharakha, Sheilla Sifuma, Aggrey Bosire, Alice Kibaba, and Hon. Dorcas Ndasaba. Those members are eight. But it does not mean that now you run out of this House so that there is no quorum of the committee.

Proceed, Hon. Chemion.

Hon. Francis Chemion: And to add, we could...

Mr. Speaker: I always see people here sitting near the door and they disappear quickly. Proceed.

(Laughter)

Hon. Francis Chemion: Honourable Speaker, we could have been 15, but you are aware that some of our members are conducting Public Participation; so it is a serious Committee. I will read the Executive summary.

Executive summary

The Committee undertook a benchmark visit to assess institutional frameworks supporting Members' welfare, with particular emphasis on wellness, fitness, and hospitality services. The

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findings of the visit underscore the critical role that such facilities play in enhancing legislative productivity, improving health outcomes, and strengthening institutional efficiency.

The National Assembly of Kenya has established a comprehensive and mature model characterized by strong governance structures, a clearly defined legal and financial framework, and professional management systems. The integration of wellness and hospitality services within its institutional architecture reflects a strategic commitment to preventive healthcare and Member support.

Similarly, the County Assembly of Nyandarua demonstrates a functional and contextually appropriate model at the county level, confirming that such facilities are both feasible and beneficial within devolved units of governance. The Committee notes with appreciation that the County Assembly of Bungoma has already taken a significant preparatory step through the allocation of space for the establishment of these facilities.

This Report sets out key findings and proposes actionable recommendations aimed at ensuring that the establishment of these facilities is undertaken within a robust legal, financial, and administrative framework that guarantees sustainability and efficiency.

Committee Membership

The Committee on Labour Relations, Member Service and Facilities comprised of the following Members: -

1. Hon. Hentry Nyongesa - Chairperson
2. Hon. Catherine Kituyi - Vice Chairperson
3. Hon. Everton Nganga
4. Hon. Anthony Luseneka
5. Hon. Polycarp Kimeta
6. Hon. Godfrey Mukhwana
7. Hon Francis Chemion
8. Hon. Everlyn Anyango
9. Hon. Linda Kharakha
10. Hon. Alice Kibaba
11. Hon. Brigid Katasi
12. Hon. Dorcas Ndasaba
13. Hon. Mitrine Nangalama
14. Hon Sheila Sifuma
15. Hon. Aggrey Bosire

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Acknowledgment

I would like to thank the Members of Labour Relations, Members Service and Facilities Committee for their dedication, commitment, integrity and valuable contributions in carrying out the visit to Nairobi and Nyandarua Counties and eventually coming up with this report. The Committee is equally grateful to the Office of the Speaker and that of the Clerk of County Assembly for the support received.

The report is signed by the then chairperson Hon. Hentry Nyongesa.

Background

The effectiveness of legislative institutions is increasingly understood to be closely linked to the welfare, health, and overall working environment of their Honorable Members and staff. Contemporary governance systems recognize that optimal performance in legislative, oversight, and representative functions is not solely dependent on technical capacity, but also on the physical and mental well-being of those entrusted with these responsibilities.

In response to this evolving understanding, legislative institutions globally and within Kenya have progressively integrated wellness, fitness, and hospitality services into their operational frameworks. These facilities serve as critical enablers of preventive healthcare, particularly in addressing the rising incidence of non-communicable diseases, while also promoting work-life balance and institutional cohesion.

The National Assembly of Kenya has, over time, developed a comprehensive wellness and hospitality system that exemplifies best practice in this regard. At the county level, institutions such as the County Assembly of Nyandarua and Nakuru have similarly embraced the integration of Members' welfare facilities into their administrative structures.

The County Assembly of Bungoma has already demonstrated commitment to this agenda by allocating space for the establishment of a gymnasium, restaurant, and sauna facilities. However, these facilities are yet to be efficiently utilized. The benchmark visit was therefore undertaken to inform a structured and sustainable approach to implementation.

Legal Framework

The establishment and operationalization of Members' welfare facilities is grounded within the broader legal and policy framework governing public institutions in Kenya. The Constitution of Kenya 2010 provides for principles of good governance, efficiency, and responsive public service, which underpin the need for supportive institutional environments.

Further, the Public Finance Management Act provides a framework for prudent financial management, including the establishment and administration of public funds. The County

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Governments Act and the County Assembly Services Act collectively provide the legal basis for the administration of county assemblies and the facilitation of Members' welfare.

These legal instruments collectively provide sufficient authority for the establishment of structured wellness and hospitality facilities within county assemblies.

Objectives of the Visit

The benchmark visit was undertaken with the primary objective of examining institutional models for the establishment and management of Members' facilities. Specifically, the Committee sought to evaluate governance structures, financing mechanisms, operational systems, and best practices that could inform implementation at the County Assembly of Bungoma.

Methodology

In undertaking the assignment, the Committee adopted a multi-faceted approach that included consultative engagements with relevant administrative personnel, physical inspection of facilities, and review of operational systems and governance frameworks. This approach enabled the Committee to obtain both strategic and practical insights into the functioning of the facilities.

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

The Committee established that the National Assembly of Kenya has developed a comprehensive and well-coordinated system for the provision of Members' welfare services. The Wellness Centre and hospitality services are fully integrated into the institutional framework and are supported by robust governance, professional management, and sustainable financing mechanisms.

Wellness and Fitness Services

The Committee observed that the National Assembly of Kenya has established a comprehensive and well-integrated Wellness Centre, which has been operational since 2003. The facility is designed not merely as a gymnasium, but as a holistic wellness hub aimed at promoting preventive healthcare and enhancing the overall well-being of Members and staff. This approach reflects a deliberate institutional strategy to address the increasing prevalence of lifestyle-related conditions, particularly non-communicable diseases such as hypertension, through structured fitness and health interventions.

The Wellness Centre comprises a fully equipped gymnasium with modern fitness equipment that has been progressively acquired over time through structured procurement processes. In addition to fitness training, the facility offers a wide range of complementary services, including spa

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therapy, steam bath, sauna, physiotherapy, and nutrition and dietetics support. These services collectively provide a multi-disciplinary approach to health and wellness, enabling users to access both preventive and rehabilitative care within the institutional environment.

Access to the facility is restricted to sitting Members of Parliament and current staff, thereby ensuring controlled utilization and sustainability of services. Entry and usage are managed through a structured booking system, supported by proper record-keeping mechanisms to monitor usage patterns, manage capacity, and ensure accountability in the use of resources.

The Centre is managed by eleven (11) on permanent and pensionable terms and seven (7) contracted qualified and professional fitness instructors and wellness practitioners, whose expertise ensures that services are delivered in accordance with established health and safety standards. To address staffing needs and build capacity, the facility also incorporates internship programmes, which serve as a pipeline for developing future professionals while supplementing human resource requirements.

Governance oversight is provided by a dedicated Wellness Committee, which is responsible for policy direction, operational supervision, and continuous improvement of services. The facility is fully funded by the Exchequer, with an annual budget of around Ksh. 50 million allowing Members and staff to access services free of charge, thereby removing financial barriers and encouraging widespread participation in wellness programmes.

In addition, the National Assembly has a variety of sporting teams including athletics, basketball, volleyball- men and women, Golf, swimming and Darts- specifically for members with disability. These teams continuously train and hold a sports day every year to raise awareness on the importance of fitness both for members of staff and the Honorable Members.

Hospitality Services

The Committee observed that the hospitality services at the National Assembly of Kenya are structured within a well-defined institutional, legal, and financial framework that ensures efficiency, sustainability, and high standards of service delivery. The restaurant and catering services operate under a dedicated Catering Fund established in accordance with the Public Finance Management Act, thereby providing a clear mechanism for financial management, accountability, and operational independence. (*Annexed*)

The Catering Fund was initially capitalized with a seed amount of approximately Kshs. 70 million and has since grown to about Kshs. 100 million, reflecting prudent financial management and sustainability of the model. The Fund is administered by a multi-departmental committee responsible for oversight, policy direction, and ensuring adherence to established financial and

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operational procedures. Surplus funds generated from operations are reinvested through banking arrangements, further strengthening the financial base of the facility.

The hospitality services provide subsidized meals to Members and staff, with buffet services offered at affordable rates, thereby enhancing accessibility while maintaining quality standards. Operations are conducted on weekdays, with additional bar services available in the evening from 6:00 PM. Access to the restaurant is regulated, with Members permitted to host a maximum of two guests, while larger delegations require prior approval from the Speaker, ensuring controlled usage and proper planning.

The system integrates modern and flexible payment mechanisms, including mobile money (M-Pesa) and payroll-based deductions from Members' allowances, supported by pay bill and point-of-sale systems. This enhances convenience and promotes compliance in revenue collection.

Procurement of food supplies is undertaken from prequalified suppliers through structured processes, ensuring quality, reliability, and value for money. Payments to suppliers are processed through formal financial systems, while certain beverages are sourced through Government-to-Government arrangements, enabling cost efficiency.

The hospitality unit is supported by a substantial workforce comprising of 139 staff under the Parliamentary Service Commission, supplemented by contracted personnel and interns. Staff welfare is prioritized, with provisions for transport facilitation and security during extended working hours. Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) are strictly enforced to maintain consistency, hygiene, and quality of meals and services. Additionally, the unit supports institutional obligations such as committee sittings and bereavement arrangements, where the department is in charge of the first day catering services to the family of the Member. This underscores its integral role in the functioning of the institution.

Governance and Operations

The Committee observed that the governance and operational framework underpinning the Members' facilities at the National Assembly of Kenya is anchored on well-defined systems designed to promote efficiency, accountability, and sustainability. The management of the facilities is supported by structured administrative controls and institutionalized procedures that ensure orderly access, optimal utilization, and proper stewardship of resources.

Access to the facilities is regulated through a structured booking system, which facilitates advance scheduling, controls user flow, and enhances overall service delivery. This system is complemented by robust record management frameworks that capture user data, monitor utilization trends, and support informed decision-making in the management of the facilities. The

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maintenance of accurate and up-to-date records further strengthens accountability and enables effective planning for resource allocation and service improvement.

The Committee further noted that the procurement of equipment and related services is undertaken through open and competitive tendering processes, in full compliance with applicable public procurement laws and regulations. This approach ensures transparency, fairness, and value for money in the acquisition of fitness equipment, hospitality supplies, and other operational inputs. It also promotes competitiveness among suppliers, thereby enhancing quality and cost efficiency.

Maintenance of the facilities is equally structured and is conducted through formal procurement mechanisms, including service contracts with qualified providers. This ensures that equipment and infrastructure are regularly serviced, maintained in optimal condition, and compliant with safety and operational standards. The existence of these structured maintenance arrangements minimizes downtime, prolongs the lifespan of assets, and guarantees continuity in service delivery.

Overall, the governance and operational systems observed reflect a deliberate and well-coordinated institutional approach that integrates administrative efficiency, financial prudence, and service excellence in the management of Members' facilities.

THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF NYANDARUA

The Committee observed that the County Assembly of Nyandarua has made deliberate and structured efforts towards the establishment and operationalization of Members' welfare facilities. These facilities, encompassing wellness and hospitality services, are integrated within the Assembly's administrative framework and are designed to enhance Members' well-being, efficiency, and institutional support systems.

Wellness and Fitness Services

The Committee further observed that the County Assembly of Nyandarua is in the process of constructing a modern conference Centre, which is designed to incorporate fitness and wellness facilities. While these facilities are yet to be fully operationalized, their integration into the conference complex reflects a forward-looking approach aimed at enhancing Members' welfare through accessible fitness infrastructure.

This planned development demonstrates the Assembly's commitment to institutionalizing wellness services and providing conducive environment for both official functions and health-related activities. Upon completion and operationalization, the facility is expected to

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significantly strengthen the Assembly’s capacity to promote preventive healthcare and work-life balance among Members and staff.

Hospitality Services

The Committee observed that the County Assembly of Nyandarua has operationalized hospitality services that provide structured catering support to Members, staff, and institutional functions. The restaurant services are designed to facilitate convenience, efficiency, and reliability in the provision of meals within the Assembly precincts.

The Committee noted that the County Assembly of Nyandarua has established a well-structured hospitality framework supported by an enhanced budgetary allocation under the hospitality vote. This has enabled the Assembly to provide complimentary tea services to Members and staff from Monday to Friday, thereby enhancing convenience and supporting daily operations within the Assembly.

Additionally, tea accompanied by snacks is provided during morning committee sittings, ensuring that Members are adequately facilitated during official engagements. This arrangement contributes to improved efficiency and productivity during committee proceedings.

The Committee further observed that the hospitality unit is supported by a dedicated team of staff, including professional chefs and waiters, who ensure the consistent delivery of quality services. To augment this workforce, the Assembly has incorporated internship programmes and contracted personnel, thereby addressing staffing needs while also contributing to capacity building and skills development.

Governance and Operations

The Committee observed that the governance and operational framework at the County Assembly of Nyandarua reflects a structured and welfare-oriented approach that is firmly anchored within the Assembly’s administrative systems. The management of Members’ facilities and support services is integrated into the broader institutional framework, thereby ensuring coordination, accountability, and alignment with the Assembly’s strategic objectives.

The Committee noted that the Assembly has adopted a proactive approach in strengthening social protection mechanisms for Members and staff through structured burial and benevolent arrangements. In this regard, the Assembly has entered into a formal agreement with its health insurance provider, which guarantees a defined financial contribution in the event of death within the nuclear family of a Member or staff. This arrangement provides a predictable and reliable support system, reducing the financial burden associated with bereavement while reinforcing institutional care and solidarity.

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Further, the Assembly complements this financial support with the provision of logistical assistance during bereavement, including tents, chairs, and related services. This holistic approach to welfare support demonstrates an institutional culture that extends beyond core legislative functions to encompass the social and emotional well-being of Members and staff.

The Committee also observed that the operationalization of hospitality services and planned wellness infrastructure is supported through deliberate budgetary provisions, particularly under an enhanced hospitality vote. This reflects prudent financial planning and prioritization of Members' welfare within the Assembly's expenditure framework. The availability of dedicated funding ensures continuity of services and provides a foundation for the gradual expansion and improvement of facilities.

In terms of human resource management, the Assembly has adopted a blended staffing model comprising permanent staff, contracted personnel, and interns. This approach enhances operational flexibility, ensures adequate service delivery, and contributes to institutional capacity building. The engagement of interns, in particular, provides practical training opportunities while supporting day-to-day operations in a cost-effective manner.

The Committee further noted that administrative controls are in place to guide service delivery, including internal coordination mechanisms for committee sittings and hospitality support. These controls facilitate orderly planning, efficient resource utilization, and timely provision of services, thereby enhancing overall institutional effectiveness.

Procurement of goods and services is undertaken in accordance with the prevailing public procurement and asset disposal framework, ensuring transparency, accountability, and value for money. Similarly, the Assembly has embraced structured approaches to resource utilization and service provision, which contribute to sustainability and operational efficiency.

COMMITTEE GENERAL OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

COMMITTEE OBSERVATIONS

The Committee made the following observations;

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1. The National Assembly has established a comprehensive and fully operational framework for wellness, fitness, and hospitality services, supported by strong governance structures, sustainable financing, and professional management.
2. The County Assembly of Nyandarua has implemented a functional and context-appropriate model, demonstrating that Members' welfare facilities are feasible at the county level.
3. While the National Assembly operates a mature and integrated wellness center, Nyandarua is in the process of expanding its infrastructure, including a conference center incorporating fitness facilities that are yet to be operationalized.
4. Both institutions affirm the critical role of wellness and fitness programmes in promoting preventive healthcare and enhancing Members' productivity and overall institutional performance.
5. The National Assembly has established a dedicated Catering Fund that ensures financial sustainability and operational efficiency, while Nyandarua relies on enhanced budgetary allocations under the hospitality vote to support its services.
6. The Committee observed that Nyandarua provides complimentary tea and snacks, particularly during committee sittings, which contributes positively to the facilitation of legislative business.
7. Both institutions have invested in human resource capacity through employment of skilled personnel, including chefs, fitness trainers, and support staff, supplemented by interns and contracted staff.
8. The Committee noted that governance at the National Assembly is supported by specialized committees, while Nyandarua integrates these functions within its general administrative framework.
9. The Committee observed that Nyandarua has established structured welfare support systems, including burial and benevolent arrangements supported through partnerships with health insurance providers.
10. Operational efficiency in both institutions is enhanced through administrative controls, structured service delivery systems, and adherence to public procurement and financial management frameworks.

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COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee made the following recommendations;

1. **THAT**, pursuant to the Public Finance Management Act, the County Assembly should establish a ring-fenced Catering and Hospitality Fund through a formal resolution of the Assembly, with clear regulations on capitalization, administration, auditing, and reporting, to guarantee financial sustainability, transparency, and operational efficiency of hospitality services.
2. **THAT**, the County Assembly Service Board shall constitute a multi-sectoral Facilities Management Committee with defined terms of reference, including policy oversight, operational supervision, and performance monitoring, and table quarterly reports before the Assembly for accountability.
3. **THAT**, the County Assembly Service Board, prior to commissioning of the facilities, should approve comprehensive Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), including access control systems, booking protocols, financial tracking mechanisms, and periodic audit requirements that shall guide the operations of these facilities.
4. **THAT**, the County Assembly should expedite on equipping and operationalization of the gymnasium, sauna, and restaurant facilities within the Assembly precincts.
5. **THAT**, the County Assembly Service Board shall recruit qualified personnel through a competitive process and develop binding service standards and codes of practice for wellness and hospitality services, including mandatory compliance with occupational health, safety, and public health laws, to ensure professionalism and quality assurance. Additionally, it should incorporate internship, attachment and contractual engagement frameworks for capacity building and managing understaffing.
6. **THAT**, the County Assembly should develop and implement structured wellness programmes, including fitness activities, health awareness initiatives, and preventive healthcare interventions. This will not only help to promote sporting culture and wellness of members, as well as enhance physical fitness and team cohesion.
7. **THAT**, the County Assembly Service Board should enhance and formalize comprehensive welfare and benevolent schemes, including partnerships with insurance providers, to strengthen social protection for Members and staff.

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Honourable Speaker, that brings us to the end of this report, which was adopted by majority of the Members. We also have annexures annexed to the report. And with this, I now call upon Hon. Everton Nganga to second the report.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Francis Chemion, for moving the committee report. Allow me to invite Hon. Everton Nganga to be able to second the report of the committee accordingly.

Hon. Everton Nganga: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, for giving me a chance to second this report for noting. First, I would like to thank Hon. Francis Chemion for reading the report eloquently. Honourable Speaker, this report...

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Everton Nganga, I have been looking at the Order Paper and this report is for approval, because it is having recommendations, so for noting it means we just finish there. And when you are noting, I never put a question, so it's for approval, because you are asking the Board to be able to make the sauna and the gymnasium be operationalized so that you could reduce the weight.

Hon. Everton Nganga: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, for correction. Thank you, Honourable Speaker, for giving me a chance to second this report for approval by the County Assembly.

When we visited the National Assembly and the Nyandarua County Government Assembly, first, in Nyandarua, we discovered that they have a wellness and fitness service, and they also provide hospitality services to Honourable Members. In this County Assembly of Bungoma, we already have the space. When you look at the County Assembly building that was constructed, we have a space that is set aside for providing wellness and fitness services.

We have recommended that the County Assembly of Bungoma should also expertise in the equipping and operationalization of the gymnasium, sauna, restaurant and restaurant facilities. Honourable Speaker, in most cases, we don't have time to go to the gym, or those who always afford to visit the gymnasium centers here in Bungoma County, they always pay.

If we are going to equip ours in the Bungoma County Assembly, you discover that actually it will be very important. One, it will reduce the cost of paying the gymnasium costs outside and it will improve our health.

In Nyandarua County Assembly, they also provide structured catering support services to Honourable Members that motivates daily plenary attendance. We should not actually be sitting at home wasting time, or thinking that you should have breakfast at home, or carry money for

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lunch before you come to the County Assembly of Bungoma. So I urge that we also have structured catering services to be provided to staff and Honourable Members. They also provide financial support when it comes to logistic issues. They always assist Honourable Members in terms of benevolent, where a Member has lost a member of his/her family and parents.

We should also have such arrangements to provide logistical assistance in terms of finance. That would be okay for Honourable Members. When you look at the National Assembly, they have invested in the catering and hospitality fund through a formal resolution of the Assembly, which means, that the budget is set for the same.

Those who have managed to visit the National Assembly, there are enough meals. Unlike with us here, when students from our Wards visit this Assembly, you will discover that Honourable Members will start soliciting funds or money to give to teachers and students, but if we have a well-organized restaurant, where students or our visitors can have meals, it will be okay.

We should have some employees working in that restaurant that will provide employment to the citizens of our County. I urge the House to approve this report with the recommendations therein.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Nganga for seconding this motion. Allow me, Honourable Members, to propose a motion for debate.

(Question proposed)

Honourable Members, I do appreciate. It appears the report does not require contributions, and that means Hon. Francis Chemion, you won't have a right of replying to the motion. I will proceed and put the question so that you are able to make the decision of the same.

(Question Put and agreed to)

Next item,

ADJOURNMENT

Honourable Members, I'm informed by my officers here that was the last motion we had on our Order Paper. So I will adjourn our sitting and resume at 2:30 p.m. session accordingly.

The House rose at 10:53 a.m.

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